

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed October 5, 2004, in the above-identified application. Enclosed herewith is a Petition requesting a one-month extension of time for resetting the deadline for responding to the Office Action from January 2005, to and including February 5, 2005.

As an initial matter, Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 49, 52, 53 and 54.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 42-58 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata in view of Shibata-II. In response, Applicants have canceled claims 42-58, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103(a), and have rewritten them as claims 59-73.

The limitations of objectionable original claims 46 and 49 have been incorporated in new claim 59, and since such objectionable claims are now rewritten in independent form, new claim 59 is believed to be allowable. Claims 60-73 are dependent upon new claim 59, and are believed allowable therewith.

In view of the above amendments, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

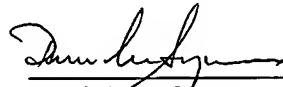
If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' attorney at (505) 332-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested Amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3029 therefore.

A favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Dated: February 4, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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